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A Little War that Shook the World

Georgia, Russia, and the Future of the West

Ronald Asmus

RONALD ASMUS is Executive Director of the Brussels-based Transatlantic Center and responsible for Strategic Planning at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs during President Clinton's second term. He has published numerous essays over the years on US-European relations, including in *Foreign Affairs*, *Survival*, *the American Interest* and *Policy Review*. He is a contributor to the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The New Republic*, as well as a commentator in both the American and European news media. He lives in Brussels, Belgium.

The brief war between Russia and Georgia in August 2008 seemed to many like an unexpected shot out of the blue. Former Assistant Deputy Secretary of State Ronald Asmus contends that it was a conflict that was prepared and planned for some time by Moscow, part of a broader strategy to send a message to the United States.

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The Decision
From Cold to Hot War in the Caucasus
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"[P]rovides a very timely, historically clarifying, geopolitically illuminating analysis of the first post-Cold War East-West military conflict --- and does so with unique insider's knowledge of what actually did happen... an important statement and a very good read!" -- Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor and author of *The Choice: Global Domination or Global Leadership*

"Ron Asmus has been an original thinker, diplomat and the go-to expert on Central and Eastern Europe for the more than 20 years that I have known him. His writing should be required reading for those who care about Europe and its neighborhood, and his account of the August 2008 Russo-Georgia war is one that no one who cares about the region should miss."--Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Secretary of State, 1997-2001

"I can think of few individuals more qualified to judge the background to, nature of and consequences of the five-day war between Russia and Georgia than Ron Asmus. With unique access to key actors, he describes the political background of what happened in a way no one else could have done. The book is an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the Caucasus, Europe, the transatlantic relations as well as the Russia of today -- and tomorrow."--Carl Bildt, former prime minister of Sweden

